Docket No: AdVec 9
Serial No: 09/286,874

The 07/18/2001 Final Office action provided a shortened statutory period of three months. The Applicants hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for a one-month extension of time, to 11/19/2001, and submit payment of $110.00 fee for the requested one-month extension.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1: Please consider the following change(s) to claim 1:

1 (Amended). An adenoviral vector gene delivery system comprising:
(a) a helper dependent adenovirus vector, hdAd, comprising a genome lacking adenovirion protein coding sequences, but encoding a gene and expression control sequences, the expression of which in a recipient cell is desired;
(b) helper adenoviruses of different serotypes encoding all functions required to facilitate hdAd genome packaging and replication; and
(c) a cell into which may be introduced, in separate introduction steps, a helper adenovirus of a first serotype and said hdAd, such that each said separate introduction step results in the production of a packaged hdAd having the serotype of the helper adenovirus co-introduced into said cell in said step.

Claim 13: Please consider the following change(s) to claim 13:

13 (twice amended). A method of making a series of genetically identical adenoviral vectors wherein each member of said series has a different serotype, for delivering and expressing a desirable gene in a recipient of said series of genetically identical adenoviral vectors which comprises:
(a) making a series of helper adenoviruses of differing serotypes, each serotype of said series of adenoviruses encoding a different set of capsid proteins;

(b) making a helper dependent adenovirus vector, hdAd, having a genome encoding said gene, an adenoviral packaging signal, the adenoviral left ITR and the adenoviral right ITR and as much additional nucleic acid sequences as are necessary to ensure expression of said gene and packaging of said hdAd genome, but not encoding adenovirion proteins;

(c) generating a first stock of said hdAd *in vitro* by co-introducing into a cell said hdAd genome and a helper adenovirus of a first serotype under conditions wherein said stock is highly enriched in infectious particles comprising said hdAd genome and capsid proteins encoded by said helper adenovirus of said first serotype;

(d) repeating step (c) as many times as desired using a helper adenovirus of a different serotype each time said step (c) is repeated, such that a series of infectious hdAd stocks are generated, with each said stock having said different set of capsid proteins based on said different serotype; and

(e) recovering said infectious hdAd stocks having a capsid of different serotype to obtain said series of genetically identical adenoviral vectors.

Claim 15: Please consider the following change(s) to claim 15:

15. (Amended) The adenoviral vector gene delivery system of claim 1 wherein, in a series of said packaged helper dependent adenoviruses, at least two helper adenoviruses are from one subgroup of adenoviruses.

A marked-up version of the above amendments is provided separately.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, and 13-15 are pending in the application following withdrawal of claims 5-7 and 10-12 as being drawn to a nonelected invention. In the Final Office action, mailed 07/18/2001, the